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November 11, 2009

Dear Friends:

At the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month of 1918, the guns fell silent and World War I came to an end. From that very moment in history to this time and place we have continued a sacred ritual.

Each year, we come together to honor and commemorate the millions of men and women who have served our country. Since the birth of our great nation, our military has fought to secure the rights and liberties of all Americans. Their enormous sacrifice while in uniform has helped promote democracy, stabilize the lives of millions throughout the world, and ensure that security and freedom continue to reign across the land.

As the ancient Greek philosopher Thucydides stated, "The secret of happiness is freedom. And the secret of freedom, courage." Our nation remains forever indebted to those who courageously put themselves in danger's path, traveling to the harshest, most brutal regions of the world in the hope of creating a safer and more peaceful existence for all.

To the more than 25 million veterans and their families, just as no soldier is left behind in battle, our pledge to you is that no veteran shall be left behind upon returning home. From the moment you raised your right hand and took an oath to protect and defend our nation, America affirmed an everlasting commitment to you.

On this day, it is with great honor and humble reverence that we take the time to extend our gratitude, lift our hearts, and say the words that hardly bring justice to the tremendous sacrifices you have made, thank you. Thank you to all who served honorably and with pride, and thank you to the families who showed strength and support despite often frightening and harrowing conditions.

May peace and prosperity find you now as you can be assured that America is indeed grateful and honored to call you its citizens.

Sincerely,



George Miller

Member of Congress  
7<sup>th</sup> District, California